

Y5 Life Cycles

KS2 Y5 Science · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

How is a frog's life cycle different from a fox's?

Step 1 · How does each start?

Frog: eggs laid in water. Fox: cubs born alive

Step 2 · What do the young look like?

Tadpoles look nothing like frogs; fox cubs look like small foxes

Step 3 · What happens grow?

Tadpoles go through metamorphosis; cubs just grow bigger

Answer: Frogs hatch from eggs and change body shape completely (metamorphosis). Foxes are born alive, fed on milk, and grow gradually.

Check: Metamorphosis is the big difference between amphibians/insects and mammals/birds.

2. Now try one with the steps

Compare a bird's life cycle with a butterfly's.

Step 1 · Similarity

Step 2 · Difference in the egg

Step 3 · Difference in growth

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. Put these insect life cycle stages in order: pupa, adult, egg, larva.

2. What is metamorphosis?

3. Name TWO animal groups that go through metamorphosis.

4. Do most mammals lay eggs or give birth to live young?

5. What do all baby mammals feed on at first?

6. Put the frog's life cycle in order: froglet, frogspawn, adult frog, tadpole.

7. What is a young bird that has just grown feathers and left the nest called?

8. Why do birds sit on their eggs?

9. Give ONE similarity and ONE difference between a bird and an insect life cycle.

10. In animal reproduction, what joins with an egg at fertilisation?

11. Name TWO mammals that lay eggs.

12. A butterfly lays 300 eggs and 1 in 100 become adults. How many adults is that?

13. Why do frogs lay so many more eggs than birds?

14. Name a naturalist famous for studying and filming animals in the wild.

4. Before you hand it in

All animals go through metamorphosis.

Mammals and birds grow gradually; amphibians and many insects go through metamorphosis.

A caterpillar and a butterfly are different animals.

The caterpillar is the larva; it becomes a pupa, then an adult butterfly.

All mammals give birth to live young.

Almost all mammals give birth to live young; a few lay eggs.

Every egg laid becomes an adult.

Animals that lay lots of eggs usually give little or no care.